

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 071344Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4725

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 4042

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (VARIOUS WORDS THROUGHOUT TEXT)

PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV PDIP
SUBJECT: FOURTH OF JULY - REBILD

1. THE 65TH CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN FOURTH OF JULY BY DANES AND AMERICANS IN THE REBILD HILLS OF NORTHERN JUTLAND WAS A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL OF PEACE AND AMITY THIS YEAR, IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WHEN WORLDWIDE TELEVISION COVERAGE PROMPTED A BLOOD-THROWING DEMONSTRATION BY RADICALIZED YOUNG DANES IN INDIAN GARB. IN FACT, THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE WAS SO AMICABLE THAT TELEVISION CAMERAS WERE ABSENT AND ONE TABLOID (EXTRABLADET) GRUMPED ON PAGE SIX, "WITHOUT DEMONSTRATIONS TO STIMULATE THE AUDIENCE, THE REBILD FESTIVAL HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS."
 2. AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF SOME 8,000 CELEBRANTS SPREAD THEMSELVES ACROSS SUN-DRENCHED SLOPES TO HEAR AND APPLAUD THE SPEAKERS AND THE ENTERTAINMENT. YOUGH, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL, WAS MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN THE AUDIENCE BUT THE MONDAY WORKDAY DISCOURAGED ATTENDANCE
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BY MANY OF THE MIDDLEAGED JOBHOLDERS. YOUGH WAS EQUALLY IN EVIDENCE ON THE PLATFORM WHERE AN AMERICAN COUNTRY-MUSIC COMBO, A DANISH POPULAR SINGER, A CREW OF BOUNCING, FRESH-FACED YOUNGSTERS FROM THE CLASSICAL ARTS BALLET TROUPE OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, A DANISH CHORAL GROUP, THE AALBORG POLICE BAND AND THE IMMENSELY POPULAR USAFE BAND ENLIVENED THE PROCEEDINGS BETWEEN

SERIOUS AND WELL-RECEIVED SPEECHES BY 36 YEAR OLD SVEN BURMESTER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ROBERT MCNAMARA AT THE WORLD BANK, AND 28-YEAR-OLD EDSSEL FORD II, SON OF HENRY FORD AND HEIR TO THE FORD EMPIRE. BOTH SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE YOUNG IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. BURMESTER'S SOBER DISCUSSION OF THE TALENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUNG WON ADMIRING COMMENTS FROM THE LISTENERS.

3. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED OFFICIALLY BY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO LISE ØSTERGAARD WHO GREETED THE PARTICIPANTS IN DANISH, NOTING THAT THE US WAS A YOUNG SOCIETY COMPARED WITH EUROPE BUT THAT IT HAD JUST GOTTEN A NEW PRESIDENT AND A NEW YOUNG ADMINISTRATION WHOSE FRESH INITIATIVES WERE BEING WATCHED WITH INTEREST AND HOPE BY THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY BY THE DANES.

4. AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN THEN PRESENTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S GREETINGS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND DANISH. HIS MESSAGE WAS BROADCAST LIVE FROM REBILD AND WAS BROADCAST AGAIN IN ITS ENTIRETY IN DANISH LATER IN THE EVEING.

5. THE ONLY UNTOWARD INCIDENT IN THE PRCEEDINGS CAME WHEN PART OF THE PLATFORM GAVE WAY UNDER THE DANISH CHORAL SOCIETY, BOOSTING ADRENALIN BUT INJURING NO ONE.
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THAT MISHAP ELIMINATED THE GRAND FINALE BY THE CLASSICAL ARTS BALLET TROUPE WHO HAD BEEN WAITING ON STAGE LEFT TO GO ON. AMBASSADOR DEAN BANISHED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT BY INVITING THEM TO PERFORM AT HIS FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION THE FOLLOWING DAY IN COPENHAGEN. FOR THE 18 MICHIGAN YOUNGSTERS, IT WAS A WELCOMED RECOMPENSE.

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6. THE CELEBRATION IN THE REBILD NATIONAL PARK WAS THE CLIMAX OF A WEEKEND OF INTENSIVE DANISH-AMERICAN ACTIVITY IN THE FLAG-AND-BUNTING-DECORATED CITY OF AALBORG. OTHER EVENTS, IN ALL OF WHICH THE AMBASSADOR PARTICIPATED, INCLUDED THE MAYOR'S RECEPTION, THE DANISH-AMERICAN CLUB LUNCH, A RECEPTION BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, A CONCERT BY THE USAFE BAND IN AALBORG HALL, AGET-ACQUAINTED SUPPER FOR DANES AND AMERICANS, A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT THE DANISH WAR MEMORIAL, A COMMEMORATIVE CHURCH SERVICE AT THE ANCIENT BUDOLFI CATHEDRAL, AND THE GALA JULY 4 DINNER AT AALBORG HALL. THE U.S. EMBASSY CONTINGENT INCLUDED THE THREE MILITARY ATTACHES AND THE CPAO.

7. THE 1977 FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL AT RIBILD RECAPTURED MUCH OF THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH THESE OCCASIONS WERE INITIATED 65 YEARS AGO, A HAPPY CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHICH SHARE SIMILAR VALUES, INTERESTS AND OUTLOOK. THE DISAGREEMENTS WHICH HAD MOCKED THE SPIRIT OF THE FOURTH IN THE LAST DECADE AND WHICH HAD PITTED THE PROGRAM WITH ANGRY DEMONSTRATIONS WAS GONE. THAT THE POLICE WERE ON STAGE PLAYING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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RATHER THAN ON THE HILLY PATHS WITH TRUNCHEONS AND WALKIE-TALKIES SYMBOLIZED THE CLOSING OF A CHAPTER AND THE RETURN TO COMMON PURPOSE. THE CHOICE OF EDSEL FORD II AS SPEAKER HAD A LAST-MINUTE RING ABOUT IT AND THE ELEVENTH-HOUR CANCELLATION OF THE QUEEN'S ATTENDANCE DISAPPOINTED THE ORGANIZERS BUT PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE RELAXED INFORMALITY OF THE CROWD.

8. THOSE WHO CAME, BOTH DANES AND AMERICANS, APPEARED TO BE ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN THE LUMINOUS DANISH MID-SUMMER. BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, DENMARK'S BEST-KNOWN NEWSPAPER, APTLY CHARACTERIZED THE MOOD AND THE NEW TIMES: QUOTE AMERICA CELEBRATED THE BICENTENARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SO THOROUGHLY LAST

YEAR THAT THE FOURTH OF JULY NEARLY DESERVED A REST
AS A DAY OF FESTIVAL. ALL HAD APPARENTLY BEEN DONE
AND SAID, AND NOTHING LEFT TO BE SAID IN THE FESTIVAL
SPEECHES AFTERWARDS. THE FOURTH OF JULY IS, HOWEVER,
ENTITLED TO ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THE
U.S. IN THE MEANTIME HAS GOTTEN A PRESIDENT WHO
ONCE AGAIN TAKES THE MORAL PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE LITERALLY AND IS USING THEM AS A BASIS
OF HIS POLICY...HIS DOWNRIGHT INSISTENCE THAT RESPECT
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MUST IN AMERICAN'S POLICY...IS
CAUSING SURPRISE...BECAUSE IT DIFFERS FROM THE
CYNICAL NORMS FOR AMERICAN POWER POLITICS DURING THE
PAST TEN YEARS IN WASHINGTON...IT SHOULD BE APPLAUDED
THAN AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO
A POLICY WHICH IN ADDITION TO SERVING AMERICAN INTERESTS
IS ALSO SERVING HUMAN DIGNITY UNQUOTE.
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